

Coins

Lincoln turns up twice on 'sandwich fake'

By Roger Boye

Q—IN MY CHANGE recently, I found a 1964-D penny with the Lincoln Memorial clearly stamped across Lincoln's face, and on the reverse side, a faint imprint of Lincoln's face. Could you tell me the approximate worth of this coin? There are no coin dealers up here.—H. W., Whitehall, Mich.

A—Because you say the Lincoln Memorial is clearly stamped across Lincoln's face, your coin is probably a fake and worthless to collectors. In "The Official Guide to Mint Errors," Alan Herbert calls a coin like yours the "sandwich fake." It is made by piling three coins and squeezing the pile in a vise.

"This gives you a coin with a second image that is reverse and incuse [stamped into the metal], and is often mistaken for a mint error even by experienced collectors," Herbert says.

The fake resembles a genuine [that is, mint-produced] double-striking error. But the key to identification is that a "genuine error shows the reversed and incused design and lettering enlarged and distorted, while the sandwich fake will show fairly sharp edges, no enlargement, and little or no distortion."

Q—I have in my possession about \$7,500 in old money, principally \$5 silver certificates and bills with local banks stamped on them. I have been unable to determine the value of this "old money." What could you tell me, so I will be able to advise my client on the disposition of the money? She is willing to sell the money for its fair value—E. G., Streator, Ill.

A—Most coin dealers would appraise your client's batch of currency. But for so many bills, most dealers would charge for their service, perhaps as much as 10 per cent of appraised value.

You might be better off to purchase a book which lists collector values of old United States currency. Once you determine what you have and its value, you will be able to approach dealers and collectors, stating the price you want.

One popular book sold in many coin stores is the Hewitt-Donlon Catalog of U. S. Small Size Paper Money [the 1976 edition costs \$2.50].

Q—On Nov. 23, 1975, I mailed my check to the U. S. Mint for a 1976 proof set. My check cleared the bank, stamped with mint number D105776. I have yet to receive the set. Will you investigate the matter for me?—E. S., Skokie.

A—There's no need to investigate, at least not yet. The mint directors promise to ship the sets before the end of 1976. You will have to be patient.